

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 and 45-49 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-5, 14 and 18 are amended. The amendments introduce no new matter. Claim 44 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in that claim.

Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) place the application in better form for Appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 10-15, 17-19, 27-35, 39, 43 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,741,262 to Munson et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,121,968 to Arcuri et al. (hereinafter "Arcuri"). The Office Action, on pages 7-15, also rejects the rest of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) substantially as previous Office Actions have in which the claims are considered unpatentable over Munson and Arcuri in varying combinations with U.S. Patents Nos. 6,469,719 to Kino et al. (hereinafter "Kino"), 5,754,179 to Hocker et al. (hereinafter "Hocker"), 5,625,783 to Ezekiel et al. (hereinafter "Ezekiel") and 6,433,801 to Moon et al. (hereinafter "Moon"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Munson teaches an expert control management settings method and interface for displaying and configuring color management settings for printing devices (Abstract).

Munson teaches a user interface in which functions of a device are displayed on a display of a user's personal computer through a querying server. As such, the disclosure of Munson is as inapplicable to the subject matter of the pending claims as is the disclosure of Arcuri. The subject matter of the pending claims is directed to a device and method for displaying on a display panel of the device itself menu selections associated with the device. As such, any combination of Munson and Arcuri cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the subject matter of any of the pending claims, even in combination with the other varyingly applied references.

Applicants are concerned that the Examiner continues to refuse to address Applicants' previously-asserted arguments regarding the inapplicability of the Arcuri reference to the subject matter of any of the pending claims. Arcuri teaches drop-down menus provided by a computer program in two states -- a short menu state and a long menu state -- indicating that when a user opens a desired menu, the menu opened will initially take the form of a short menu of executable commands which are a subset of the total number of executable commands available under the selected menu (Abstract).

Independent claim 1 recites, and independent claims 2-5, 14 and 18 varyingly recite, among other features, a display device in an image forming apparatus (or a display method for displaying user-selectable image forming function options on a display unit in an image forming apparatus) comprising a display unit that displays a plurality of user-selectable image forming function options which can be performed by at least one of the image forming apparatus and an additional device mounted to the image forming apparatus; and display arrangement control device that judges functions added to the image forming apparatus and determines an arrangement of the plurality of user-selectable image forming function options based on the judgment, and arranges the plurality of user-selectable image forming function options in the determined arrangement, wherein a plurality of the available user-selectable

image forming function options are displayed in a first case, and less than all of the plurality of the user-selectable image forming function options that are displayed in the first case are displayed in a second case, the display arrangement control device modifying the display on the display unit from the first case to the second case.

Neither of the principally-applied prior art references can reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, this combination of features for the reasons indicated above as well as for the feature a display arrangement control device that judges functions added to the image forming apparatus and determines an arrangement of the plurality of user-selectable image forming function options based on the judgment. There is no function such as this feature explicitly or inherently disclosed in any of the applied prior art references.

For any of the above reasons, Munson and Arcuri, even in combination, where appropriate, with any of the other applied prior art references, cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the subject matter recited in at least independent claims 1-5, 14 and 18.

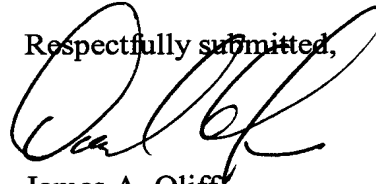
The arguments set forth above traversing the prior art rejections of independent claims 1-5, 14 and 18 are not overcome by the application of the varyingly applied additional references in any combination of Kino, Hocker, Ezekiel and/or Moon to the subject matter of the enumerated dependent claims. Dependent claims 6-13, 15-17, 19-43 and 45-49 depending from the various independent claims would, therefore, not have been suggested by any combination of the applied references at least for the respective dependence of these claims directly or indirectly on allowable independent claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-43 and 45-49 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over any combination of the applied references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-43 and 45-49 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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